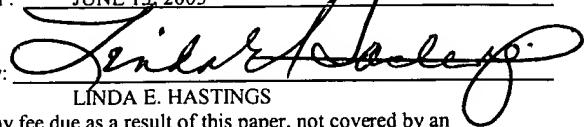




06-16-0

1765

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Attorney Docket No.: NEKA 18.612

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Yoshihisa MATSUBARA et al.

Serial No.: 09/840,386

Filed: April 23, 2001

Title: **METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR
DEVICE, AND PROCESSING SYSTEM AND
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE**

Examiner: Lan Vinh

Group Art Unit: 1765

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ELECTION

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed on May 13, 2003, the period for responding thereto having been set to expire after June 13, 2003, Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-3 and 12, for prosecution at this time. Applicant reserves the right to file continuing application(s) based on claims 4-7 and 8-11. Early examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on
Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael I. Markowitz
Reg. No. 30,659

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